

Message Text

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C:JMONTGOMERY(INFO)

USIA/IEU:SDEMITZ

SY:I:P:PIB:MR. BENNINGTON(INFO)

CU:JBECKER(INFO)

S/S -O: M. TANNER

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R 221205Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652:N.A.

TAGS:OEXC UR US

SUBJECT:POSSIBLE VISIT TO US BY GOSKINO CHAIRMAN YERMASH

REF: MOSCOW 6097

1. IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED VISIT TO THE US FOR
BLUEBIRD PREMIERE BY GOSKINO CHAIRMAN YEREMASH, SOVIET
EMBASSY CULTURAL COUNSELOR SAKOVICH INQUIRED OF DEPT APRIL
15 WHETHER IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO ISSUE AN OFFICIAL INVI-
TATION TO YERMASH OR AT LEAST TO ACT AS A CO-HOST FOR HIS
VISIT. SAKOVICH SAID THAT IN TERMS OF PROTOCOL AND
YERMASH'S RANK, EQUIVALENT TO A MINISTER, THE SOVIETS WERE
OF THE VIEW THAT HE SHOULD BE ACCORDED AN OFFICIAL INVITA-
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TION SIMILAR TO THE ONE GIVEN DEPUTY CULTURAL MINISTER

POPOV IN 1975.

2. ON APRIL 19, DEP DIRECTOR (EXCHANGES) INFORMED SAKOVICH THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT AND AT USIA IF YERMASH WERE TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION EXTENDED TO HIM BY TOWER INTERNATIONAL AND 20TH CENTURY FOX TO VISIT THE US. SAKOVICH ASKED IF THIS MEANT THAT THE DEPARTMENT FELT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO ISSUE AN OFFICIAL INVITATION. WE NOTED THAT DEPARTMENT DID NOT THINK IT NECESSARY TO EXTEND OFFICIAL INVITATION SINCE YERMASH HAD WHAT APPEARED TO BE

PERFECTLY VALID INVITATIONS FROM TWO AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS. WE WERE AWARE OF YERMASH'S POSITION AND THEREFORE WOULD BE PLEASED TO MAKE APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS FOR HIM SHOULD HE COME TO THE US. SAKOVICH THEN ASKED IF THE MPAA WOULD BE LIKELY TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO YERMASH, AND WE SUGGESTED THAT SAKOVICH CONTACT THE MPAA ON THIS MATTER. FYI, WE UNDERSTAND THE MPAA IS WILLING TO HOST A LUNCHEON FOR YERMASH IF HE COMES. END FYI

3. SAKOVICH CALLED EUR/SOV DEP DIRECTOR (EXCHANGES) ON APRIL 20, NOTING THAT EMBASSY (VORONTSOV) WAS SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED BY DEPT'S POSITION ON AN OFFICIAL INVITATION TO YERMASH. SAKOVICH THEREFORE WISHED SOME CLARIFICATION SO THAT HE COULD PROPERLY INFORM MOSCOW. DEP DIRECTOR (EXCHANGES) REITERATED POINTS MADE APRIL 19. HE ALSO NOTED, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, THAT APPOINTMENT COULD BE MADE FOR ASST SECY RICHARDSON TO RECEIVE YERMASH. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION, DEPT DIRECTOR NOTED DEPT WOULD DESIGNATE YERMASH AS OFFICIAL GUEST UNDER PL-92-539, AND DREW DISTINCTION BETWEEN OFFICIAL GUEST STATUS AND OFFICIAL INVITATION. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTION ABOUT SECURITY PROTECTION FOR YERMASH, DEP DIRECTOR SAID HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMIT HIMSELF AT THIS TIME, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER YERMASH WAS COMING. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, LOOK INTO MATTER.

4. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MRS. CLARA REECE OF TOWER INTERNATIONAL, AND HAVE INFORMED HER OF OUR CONVERSATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIONS WITH SAKOVICH CONCERNING DEPT'S POSITION ON AN OFFICIAL INVITATION TO YERMASH, AND OUR READINESS TO MAKE APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS FOR YERMASH AND TO DESIGNATE HIM AN OFFICIAL GUEST. SHE PLANS TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF YERMASH'S PROPOSED TRIP TO US AND MOSCOW PREMIERE OF BLUEBIRD WITH YERMASH DURING HER FORTHCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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